Spica

spica

Eien Scans

http://eien-scans.tumblr.com

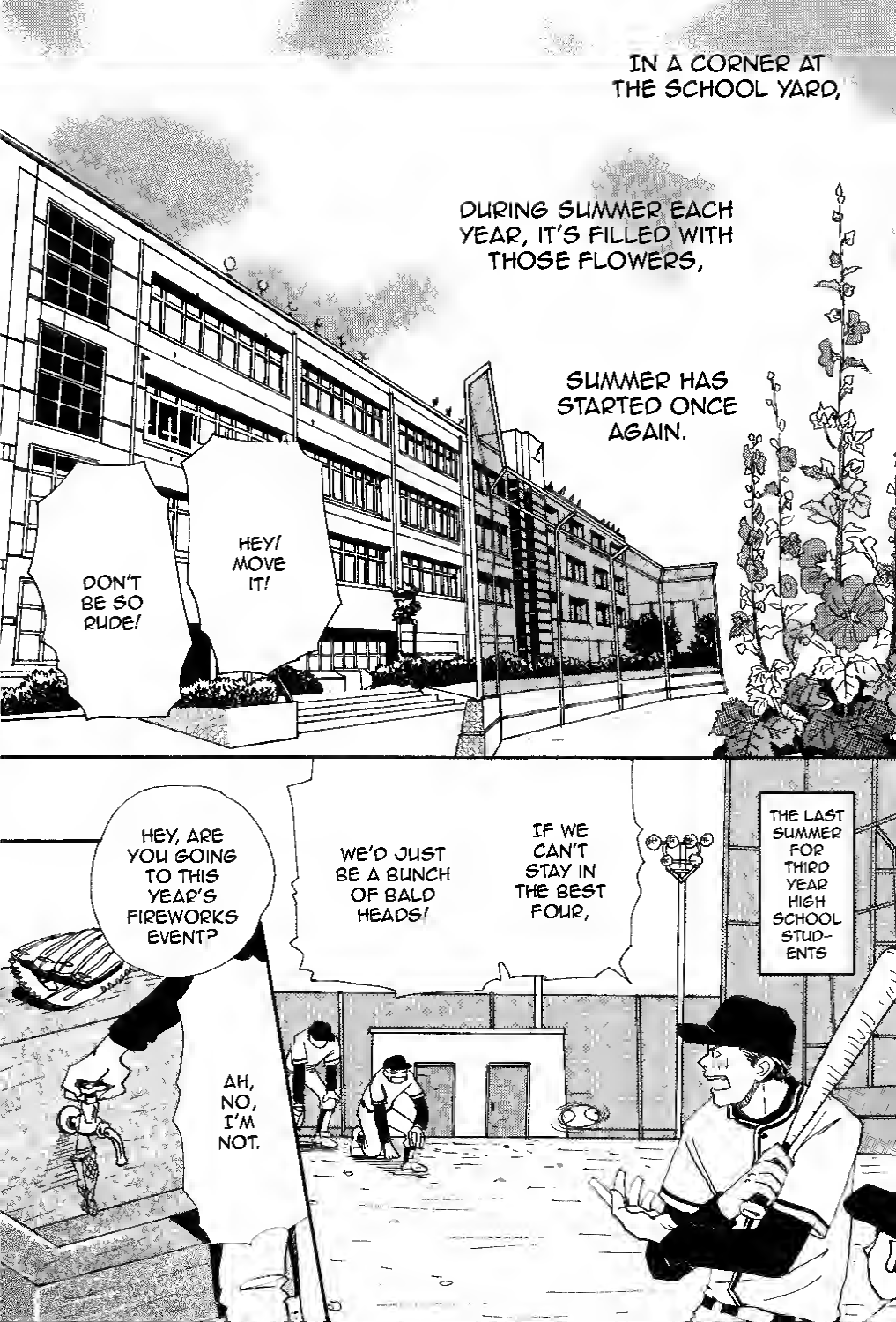
Cleaner/Typesetter: Mayuka

Translator: Fumetsu

Quality Checkers: Mayuka, Sibimet

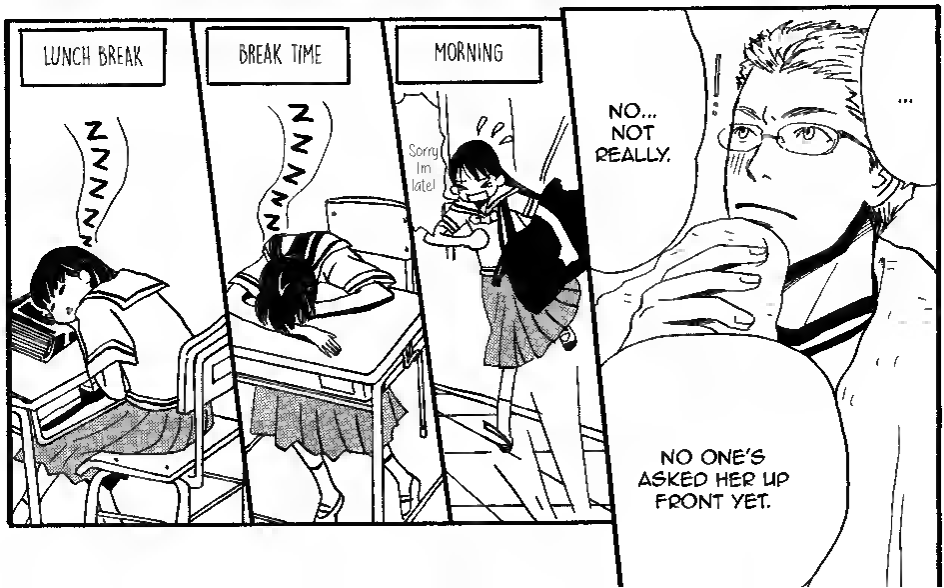
S p i c a

Initial short stories
collection
by Chica Umino

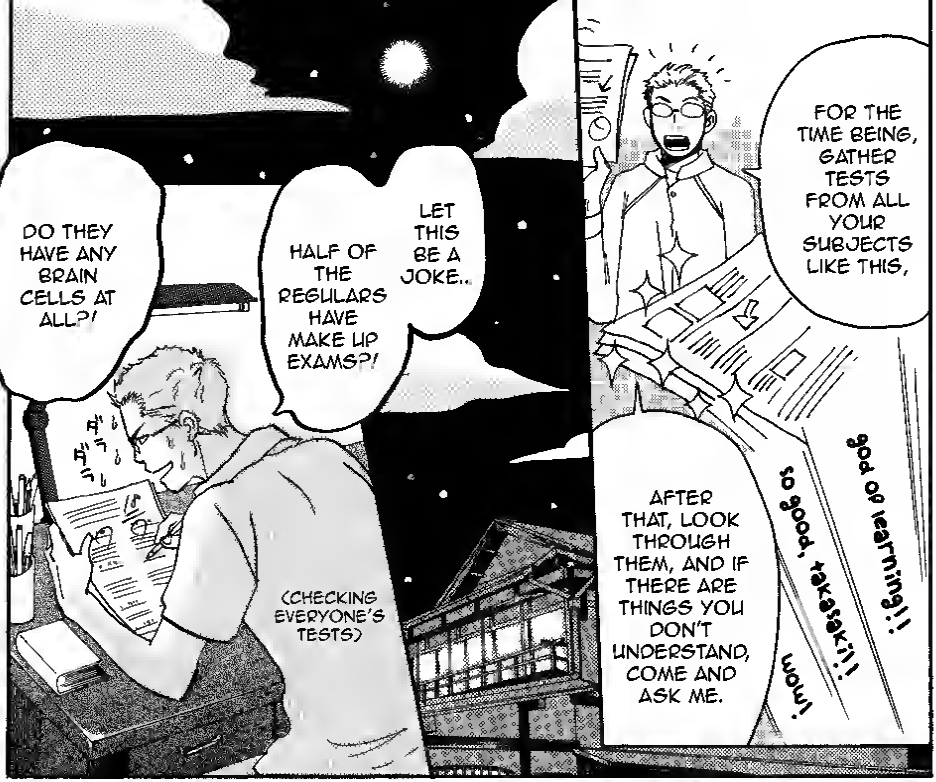

IN A CORNER AT THE SCHOOL YARD,
DURING SUMMER EACH YEAR, IT'S FILLED WITH THOSE FLOWERS,
SUMMER HAS STARTED ONCE AGAIN.
DON'T BE SO RUDE!
HEY! MOVE IT!
THE LAST SUMMER FOR THIRD YEAR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
IF WE CAN'T STAY IN THE BEST FOUR,
WE'D JUST BE A BUNCH OF BALD HEADS!
HEY, ARE YOU GOING TO THIS YEAR'S FIREWORKS EVENT?
AH, NO, I'M NOT.

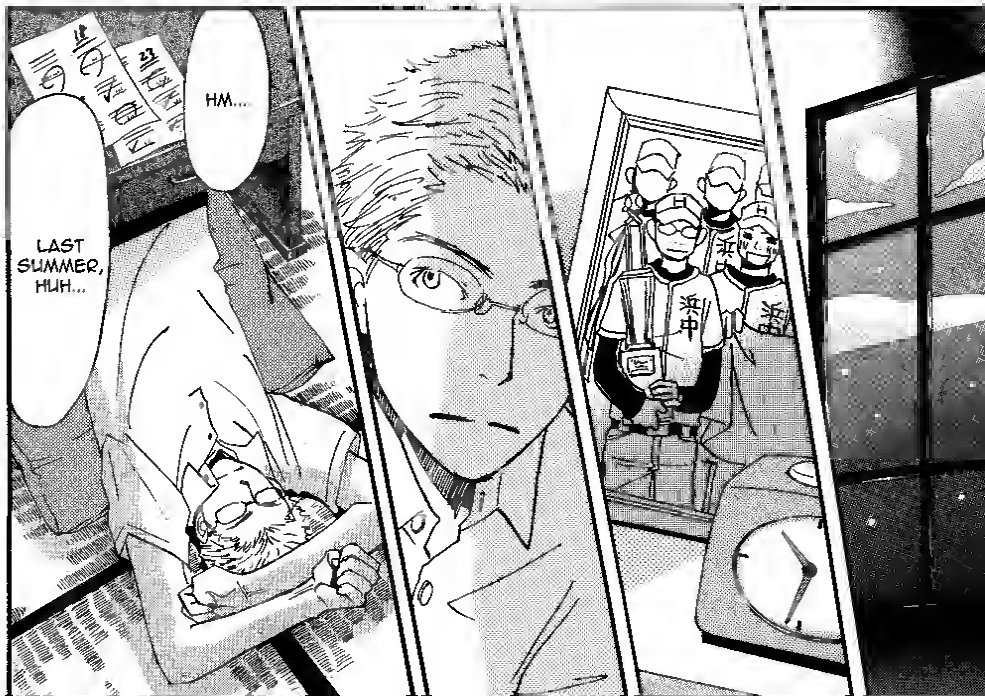
DIDN'T I SAY YOU CAN'T LEAVE UNTIL YOU GET A HAIRCUT?
HEY, WE'RE NOT DONE YET!
ANY MORE WOULD BE WORSE
hair growing out
THE FIRE-WORKS EVENT'S LIKE THIS,
OR YOU COULD CALL IT, THE CONFES-SION FESTIVAL.
THE AMOUNT OF COUPLES INCREASED AT OUR SCHOOL
AFTER THE FEST-IVAL,
HUH?
ON THE SAME DAY.
SO, TAKASAKI, THE FIREWORKS EVENT... WE HAVE WE HAVE QUARTER FINALS
SORRY, CAPTAIN! WE'LL GO RUN LAPS!
THAT TRANSFER STUDENT IN YOUR CLASS,
MISONO-SAN...

I WANNA INVITE HER! CAN YOU INTRODUCE HER TO ME?!
SEEMS LIKE YOUR HEART NEEDS A HAIRCUT TOO.
HEY, IT'S RARE TO SEE A SAILOR UNIFORM THESE DAYS!
IT'S COMPLETELY WHITE BUT HER HAIR IS PURE BLACK.
IF IT WAS HER...
OH NO, WHAT IF SOMEONE ELSE ASKED HER ALREADY?!


LUNCH BREAK
BREAK TIME
MORNING
ZZZZZ
ZZZZZ
Sorry I'm late!
...
!!
NO... NOT REALLY.
NO ONE'S ASKED HER UP FRONT YET.

AFTER SCHOOL
AND IT'S LIKE THAT EVERY DAY.
AH, SO NOBODY CAN CATCH HER, HUH?
THAT'S GOOD, RIGHT? SHE'S LIKE AN IRIOMOTE CAT!
WELL, NO... IT'S EASIER TO FIND HER THAN AN EN-DANGERED SPECIES...
OH, BUT IRIOMOTE CATS ARE...
BECAUSE OF SCHOOL RULES, WHOEVER DOESN'T PASS THEIR CLASSES WILL BE KICKED FROM BEING A REGULAR,
FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO FEEL UNEASY, TALK TO THE BASEBALL CLUB'S VICE CAPTAIN WHO'S ALSO A GOD OF STUDYING..
OKAY! REGULARS, DONE!
BUT!!!
RIGHT, IT'S LIKE THAT.
SHE SEEMS NIMBLE.
GOD OF STUDYING
VICE CAPTAIN
CERTAIN TO FAIL
CAPTAIN
W-WAIT!
TAKASAKI-...!! HELP ME!
IT'S MY LAST SUMMER HERE!
DOOO

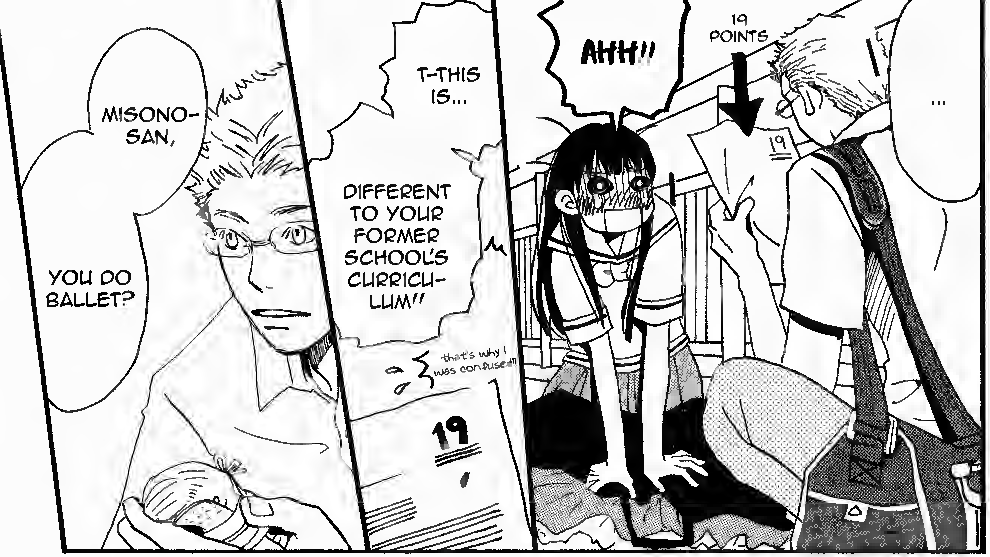

FOR THE TIME BEING, GATHER TESTS FROM ALL YOUR SUBJECTS LIKE THIS,
AFTER THAT, LOOK THROUGH THEM, AND IF THERE ARE THINGS YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, COME AND ASK ME.
Mom
So good, Takasaki!!
good to learning!!
LET THIS BE A JOKE..
HALF OF THE REGULARS HAVE MAKE UP EXAMS?!
DO THEY HAVE ANY BRAIN CELLS AT ALL?!
(CHECKING EVERYONE'S TESTS)

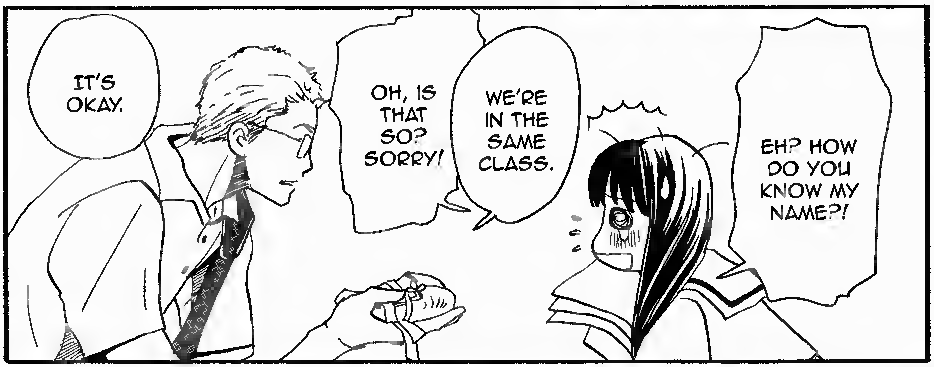

HM....
LAST SUMMER, HUH...

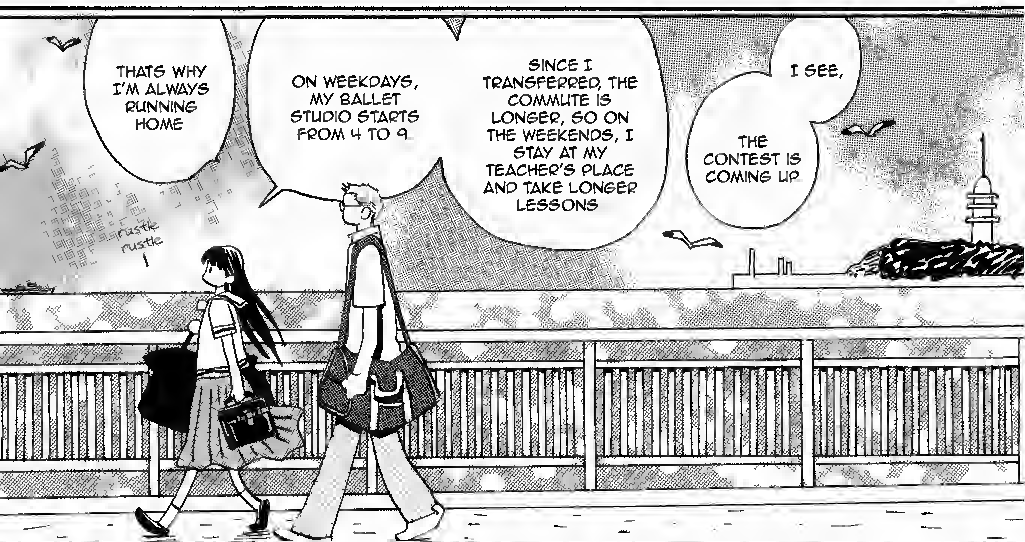
SO TIRED...
THAT'S RARE SHE'S NOT RUNNING TODAY.
SHE'S SINGING SOME-THING.

KYA!

AH, THE BAG'S ZIPPER BROKE.
OH NO!
OH NO!
ぶちっ
ばっく
ぶちっ

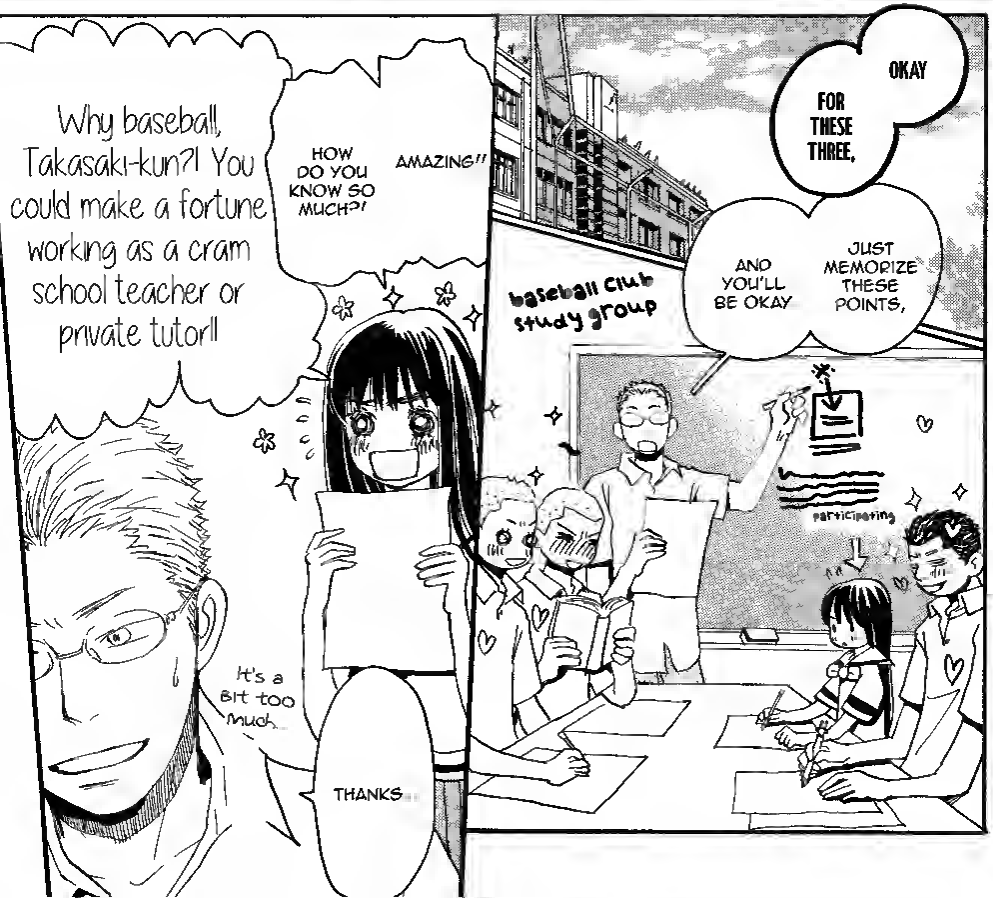

MISONO-SAN,
YOU DO BALLET?
T-THIS IS...
DIFFERENT TO YOUR FORMER SCHOOL'S CURRICU-LUM!!
that's why I was confused!!
19
AHH!!
19 POINTS
...


IT'S OKAY.
OH, IS THAT SO? SORRY!
WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS.
EH? HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?!


THATS WHY I'M ALWAYS RUNNING HOME
ON WEEKDAYS, MY BALLET STUDIO STARTS FROM 4 TO 9
SINCE I TRANSFERRED, THE COMMUTE IS LONGER, SO ON THE WEEKENDS, I STAY AT MY TEACHER'S PLACE AND TAKE LONGER LESSONS
I SEE,
THE CONTEST IS COMING UP
rustle rustle

HOW DID YOU KNOW?
IS IT 'CAUSE OF MY HAIR?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, TAKASAKI? MORNING TRAINING?
FOR BASEBALL CLUB?
I HEARD THAT THIS SCHOOL'S BASEBALL IS STRONG.
AH, BUT WE'RE IN TROUBLE THIS YEAR HALFWAY THROUGH,
HALF OF OUR REGULARS STARTED TO GET FAILING MARKS IN THEIR CLASSES.
BECAUSE OF RULES, IF THEY CONTINUE LIKE THAT TO THE END OF THE TERM, THEY WILL BE KICKED OFF THE TEAM.
AH, JEEZ! IT'S THE SAME EVERY-WHERE!
IT'S LIKE THAT FOR ME TOO!
"IF YOU GET BAD RESULTS, YOU MUST QUIT BALLET!"
...
THEN, AREN'T YOU KINDA IN A PINCH?
WELL, I TRANS-FERRED...
INEVITABLE...
SO... SO IT'S...
19

MISONO-SAN...
SAY...
BUT...
WHAT CAN I DO?

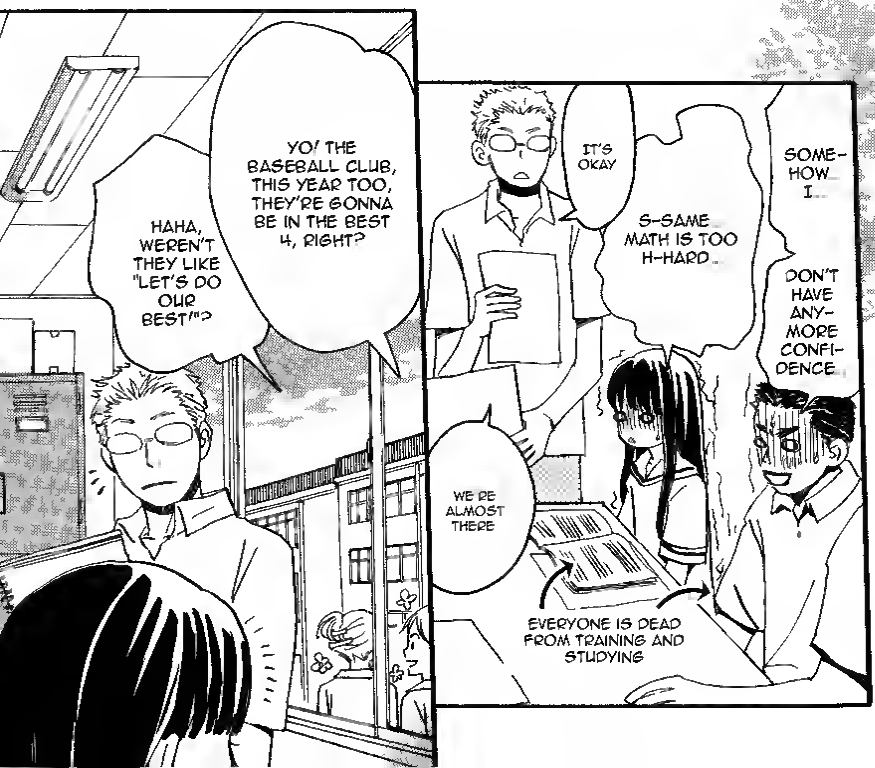

Why baseball, Takasaki-kun?! You could make a fortune working as a cram school teacher or private tutor!!
HOW DO YOU KNOW SO MUCH?!
AMAZING!!
It's a bit too much...
THANKS
baseball club study group
OKAY
FOR THESE THREE,
AND YOU'LL BE OKAY
JUST MEMORIZE THESE POINTS,
participating

...
IT'S NICE..
HAVING FRIENDS.
DEPENDS ON OUR VICE CAPTAIN'S SHOULDERS!!
YES, THE FATE OF OUR BASEBALL CLUB...
PRIDE
IF YOU FAIL AND GET KICKED OFF THE TEAM, IT WON'T BE A JOKE!
WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU, 3RD BASE/ CLEANUP HITTER!
IT'S DEPENDING ON YOUR SHOULDER!
ouch ouch
I'm trying my best!
I CAN'T.
EVEN MORE SO, THERE'S A PROMISE.
IT'S JUST THAT..
WHY DON'T YOU TELL EVERYONE ABOUT IT, MISONO?
I'M SURE THEY'LL CHEER YOU ON.

MOST PEOPLE CAN'T MAKE A LIVING THROUGH BALLET...
DO YOU HAVE THE CONFIDENCE THAT YOU CAN?
...
HEY,
I KNOW I SAY THIS A LOT, BUT HOW WOULD IT BE IF YOU TOOK A BREAK FROM BALLET?
UNIVERSITY IS MUCH MORE IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW.
I KNOW THAT YOU LIKE BALLET, BUT STILL...
WHY WERE YOU SO LATE EVEN THOUGH YOU DIDN'T HAVE BALLET LESSONS?
SORRY,
I WAS STUDYING WITH PEOPLE FROM MY CLASS.
BECAUSE THE STUFF WE'RE LEARNING IS DIFFERENT FROM MY OLD SCHOOL
IF YOU'RE HOPELESS IN BALLET, HOW WOULD YOU FEEL?
EVERYONE WOULD LAUGH AT YOU, YOU KNOW?

"IF YOU'RE HOPELESS IN BALLET, HOW WOULD YOU FEEL?"
"EVERYONE WOULD LAUGH AT YOU, YOU KNOW?"
MISONO-SAN, OPEN YOUR CHEST A BIT MORE.
WHAT'S WRONG? LISTEN TO THE SONG MORE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!
THE END OF TERM TESTS ARE RIGHT BEFORE THE CONTEST, HUH... WHAT A TOUGH TIME.
EVERY-ONE SAID NOT TO WORRY TOO MUCH
ABOUT GOING TO UNIVERSITY AND BALLET BECAUSE I'LL GET RID OF THE FEELING OF INSTABILITY OUT OF MY BODY.


3 DAYS BEFORE THE TEST
SOME-HOW I...
DON'T HAVE ANY-MORE CONFI-DENCE
IT'S OKAY
S-SAME MATH IS TOO H-HARD..
WE'RE ALMOST THERE
EVERYONE IS DEAD FROM TRAINING AND STUDYING
YO! THE BASEBALL CLUB, THIS YEAR TOO, THEY'RE GONNA BE IN THE BEST 4, RIGHT?
HAHA, WEREN'T THEY LIKE "LET'S DO OUR BEST"?

HOW MANY PEOPLE IN THE WHOLE COUNTRY CAN EVEN BECOME PROS?
IF THEY LOST THERE, WHAT WOULD THEY DO?
IT'D BE COOL IF THEY WENT TO KOSHIEN OR SOMETHING, BUT...
CAN'T THEY RECOVER?
...
...
RIGHT? I WAS EXPECTING MORE...
EH? EVEN THOUGH WE WENT THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF SUPPORTING THEM!
WELL, IF THEY LOSE, THEY'D BE HALF DEAD!
THEY'VE BEEN PRACTICING TO THAT EXTENT
BUT...

OH NO!
SORRY!
WHAT?
SO, STOP RAMBLING WHEN YOU SHOULD BE READING!
OKAY, FINE! I'LL HOLD YOUR HAND
IF I DON'T LET IT OUT, I MIGHT GO OUTSIDE AND JUMP OFF A CLIFF...
YOU'RE GROSS!
CAN YOU HOLD MY HAND?
TAKASAKI...
HEY HEY! YOU'RE GOING TO THE FIREWORKS EVENT, RIIIGHT?
YEAH! I'M WEARING A YUKATA!

THE STUFF WE HEARD JUST NOW,
MY MOM TELLS ME THAT ALMOST EVERY DAY.
MISONO-SAN!
S-SORRY! I'M GOING TO WASH MY FACE!!

"NOT EVEN ONE IN A THOUSAND PEOPLE CAN BECOME A PROFESSIONAL"
"EVERYONE WILL LAUGH AT YOU."
"IF YOU'RE HOPELESS, THEN..."
"SO, QUIT BEFORE IT HAPPENS."

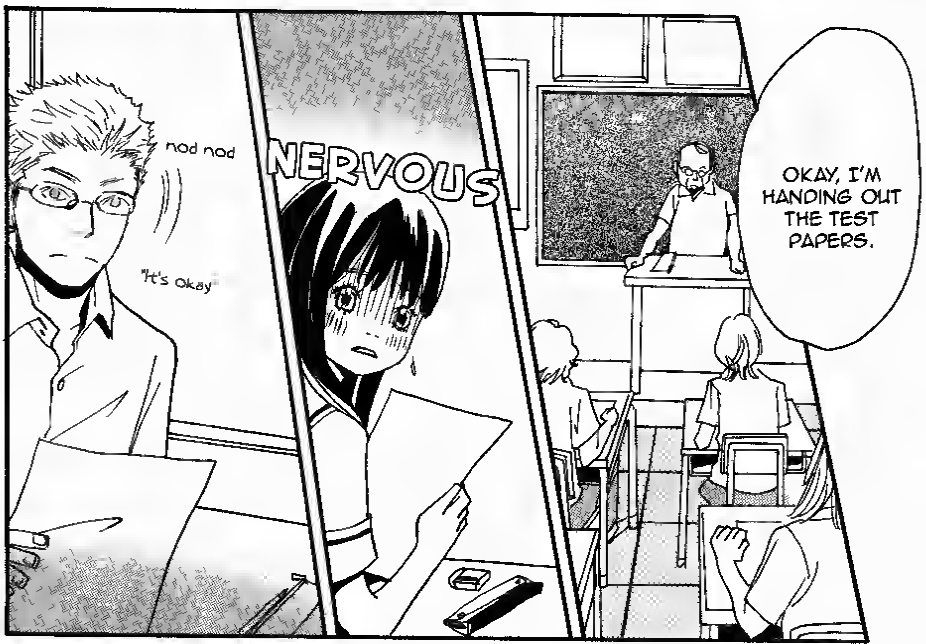
IS IT...
IS IT REALLY THAT BAD
FOR ME TO LIKE SOME-THING?
IS IT THAT LAUGHABLE?
HEY, MISONO,
YOU KNOW...
I HAVE TO GET GOOD RESULTS AT THE CONTEST, AND I'M DOING MY BEST, BUT...
IN ORDER TO MAKE MY MOTHER RELIEVED,
EVERY DAY,
SHE TELLS ME, "IF YOU'RE HOPELESS, WHAT WILL YOU DO?" "EVERYONE WILL LAUGH AT YOU!"
GRADUALLY, I'M GETTING MORE SCARED
THAT I WON'T BE ABLE TO MOVE MY BODY WELL...

SINCE THE SUMMER OF MY SECOND YEAR, I'VE BEEN A REGULAR.
BUT, AFTER LAST YEAR'S SUMMER MEETING,
DURING A PRACTICE MATCH, I TORE A LIGAMENT.
EVEN NOW, I CAN'T MOVE MY LEFT LEG AS WELL AS BEFORE.
I WAS REMOVED FROM BEING A REGULAR.
REHAB ALSO TOOK A WHILE,
BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE BASEBALL, NO MATTER WHAT.

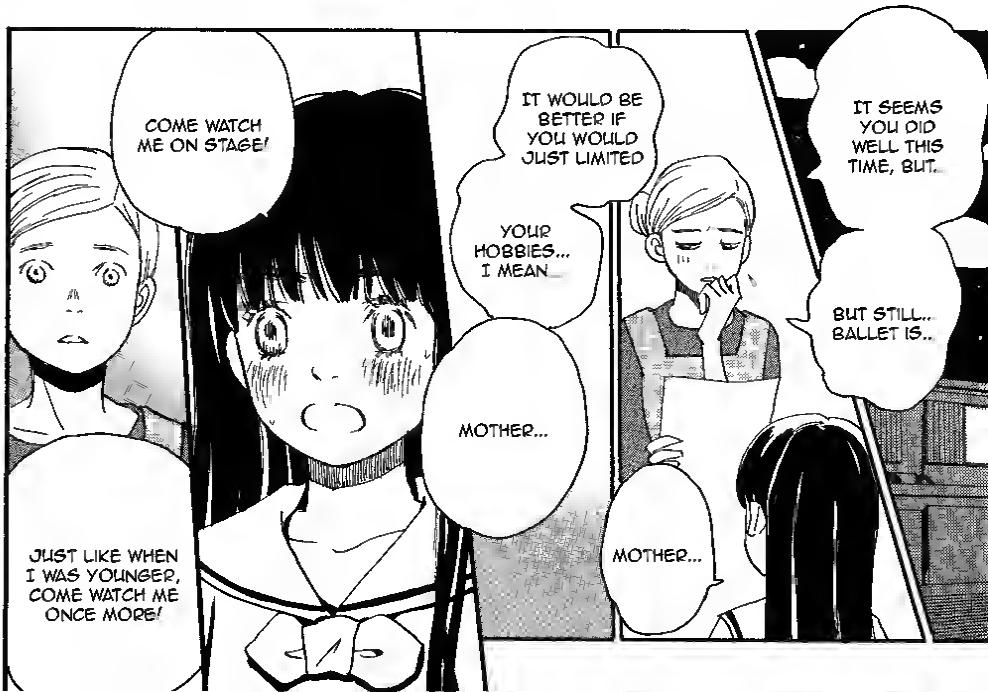
SO, INSTEAD OF PLAYING IN THE MATCH, I LOOKED FOR THINGS TO DO, TO HELP.
THE TRAINING MENU, THE SCHEDULE MANAGEMENT...
AND THEN, AS THE MEMBERS DEDICATED THEMSELVES SO FULLY TO BASEBALL, I ALSO THOUGHT OF A WAY TO FOLLOW WITH THEM.
THAT'S RIGHT, SO TO SPEAK.
THAT TALK JUST NOW, ABOUT BEING IN A HOPELESS CASE... WAS REFERRING TO ME.

SO,
ARE YOU LAUGHING AT ME?
.....
MM
WAS IT PAIN-FUL?
DID YOU CRY A LOT?
YEAH
I CRIED A LOT

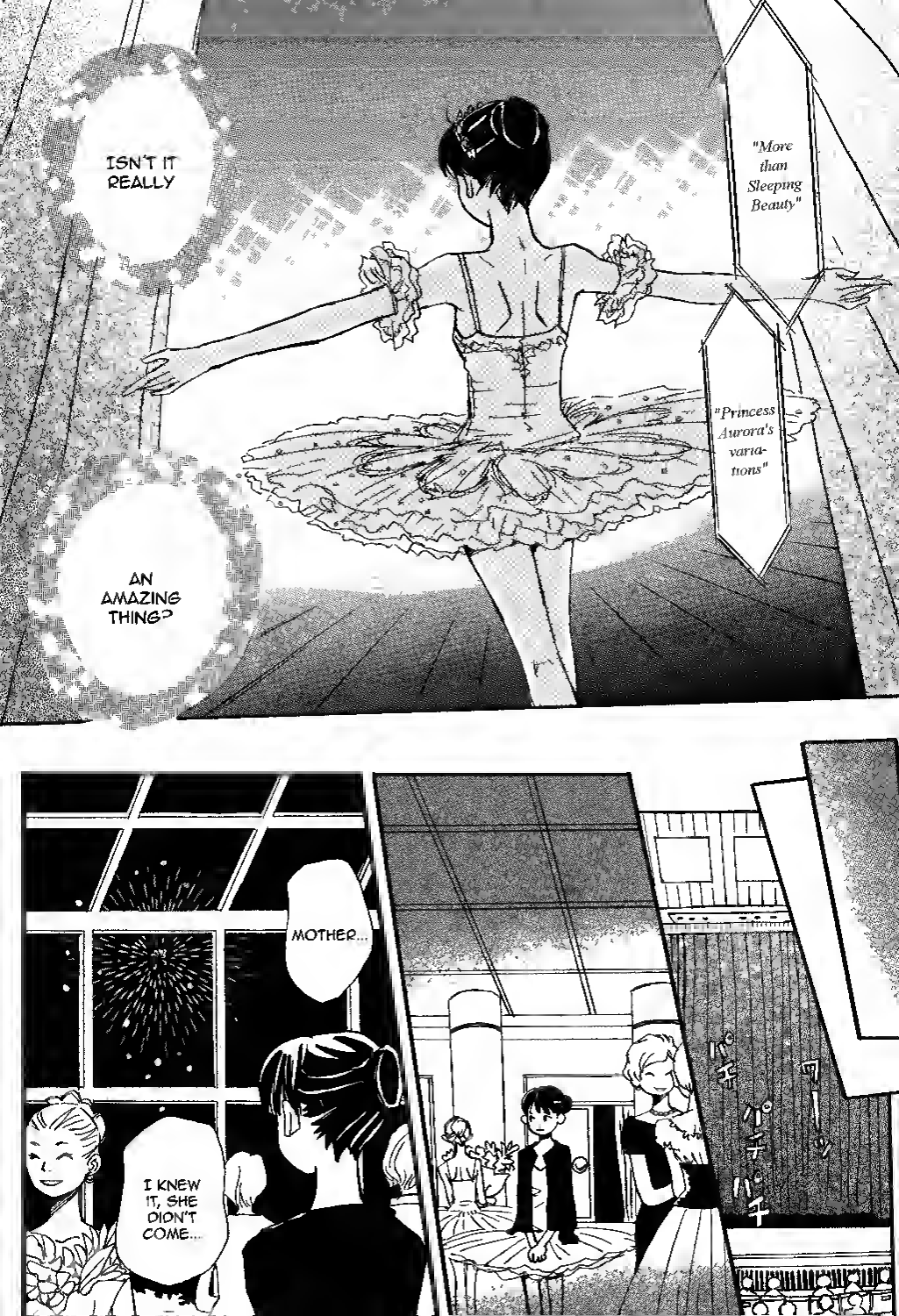
IT REALLY IS AN AMAZING THING.
THERE ARE THINGS YOU LIKE SO MUCH THAT YOU CAN'T STOP CRYING ABOUT.
BUT


nod nod
"It's okay"
NERVOUS
OKAY, I'M HANDING OUT THE TEST PAPERS.

NOW, THIS IS THE HEIGHT OF SUMMER!
THE NEXT DAY...
OK, THEN...
YEAH!
LET'S HAVE FUN AT THE FIREWORKS EVENT!!
START!


COME WATCH ME ON STAGE!
IT WOULD BE BETTER IF YOU WOULD JUST LIMITED
YOUR HOBBIES... I MEAN...
IT SEEMS YOU DID WELL THIS TIME, BUT...
BUT STILL... BALLET IS...
MOTHER...
MOTHER...
JUST LIKE WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, COME WATCH ME ONCE MORE!

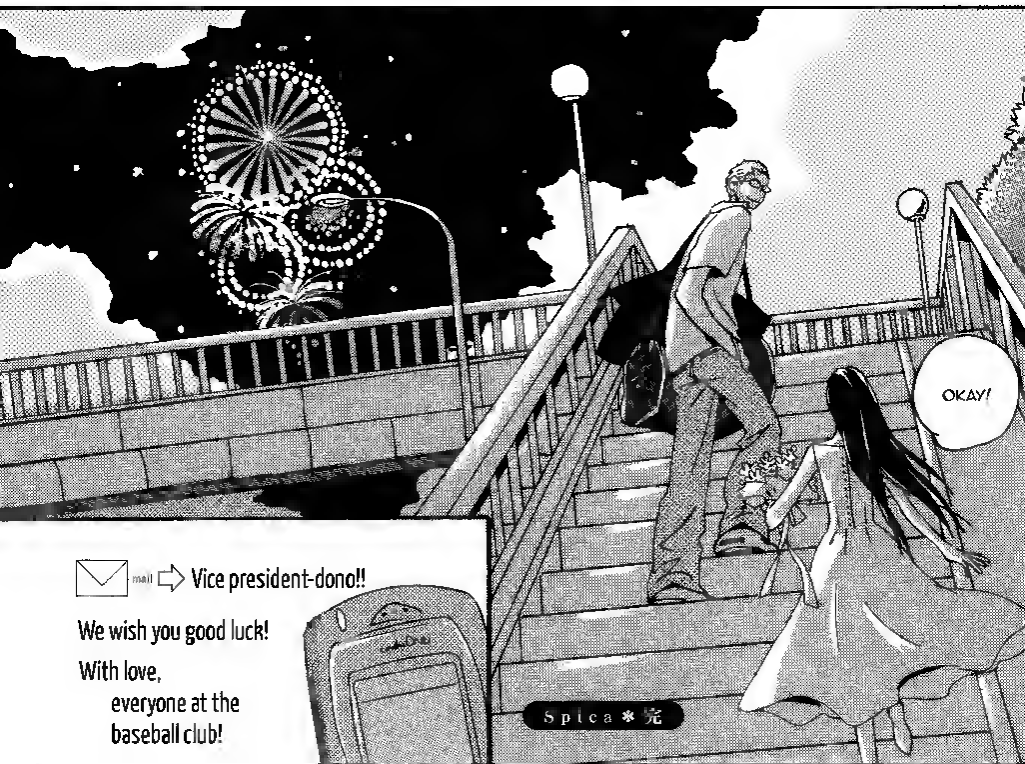
HEY MISONO,
32nd Kannguwn Prefectnre Dnnce Contest
Sponsor Mainigashi Newspaper
I'M DOING MY BEST SO...
I'LL DO MY BEST.
5th place Misono Yuuka
THAT YOU CAN'T STOP CRYING ABOUT
THERE ARE THINGS YOU LIKE SO MUCH


ISN'T IT REALLY
AN AMAZING THING?
"More than Sleeping Beauty"
"Princess Aurora's variations"
MOTHER...
I KNEW IT, SHE DION'T COME...
ワーツ
パチパチパチ

MOTHER!
YOU CAME?! I'M SO HAPPY!
AH, IT'S A SHAME IT'S ALREADY OVER... I WANTED YOU TO SEE IT.
YOU KNOW, I...
IT WAS LOVELY!
I DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND BALLET, BUT...
WHAT ABOUT WORK?
IT WAS REALLY MAGNI-FICENT!
YOU LOOKED LIKE A REAL PRINCESS!
I'M SURPRISED... WHEN I FINISHED WATCHING, I RUSHED OFF TO BUY FLOWERS,
SO THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T SEE THE CONTEST'S ANNOUNCEMENTS...
WHILE I WAS SNIFFLING ANXIOUSLY,
YOU WERE...
ALL THIS TIME,
DOING YOUR BEST.

YO,
HOW DID IT GO?
TAKASAKI-KUN!
HEEEEY, MISONO-CHAAAN!
AH
OH!
I MADE YOU WORK SO HARD ON YOUR OWN
SORRY, YUUKA EVEN NOW...
AS FOR US, WE GOT INTO THE BEST FOUR!
AMAZING!!
YAY!
I CAME IN 2ND PLACE!!
I...
I...
SUDDENLY
EH?
IF YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN US, MISONO...
WE WERE ABOUT TO GO AND EAT

WHERE DID THEY ALL GO?
HUH?
WHO'S MAIL-ING ME...
...
WHAT'S WRONG?
WH-
ガックリ.....
UGH...
EH?
EH?
...



mail ⇨ Vice president-dono!!

We wish you good luck!

With love,
everyone at the
baseball club!

Spica＊完

<Spica>